



CHURCH PLANTING HORIZONS

Church planting is quite the adventure, especially when it happens in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. However, as Romans 8:39 says, nothing has stopped the work of God's Spirit in our midst. We, the people at Mission St. Paul Apostle Free Lutheran, have witnessed firsthand the mercy and protection of the Lord. He has guided us through personal areas of need, as well as through the many projects that we have had as a congregation.

A few years ago, our congregation moved to a new church ministry that has helped us grow in areas we didn't know we needed to improve. Interestingly enough, we have also discovered aspects of church work that were completely new to us. But if I can be honest about it, the aspect that excites me the most has been the spiritual growth I have seen in our people. Our individual faith and our communion as a congregation has been strengthened by the life and freedom that only the gospel can provide.

We at Mission St. Paul have a very special love for our brothers and sisters across the world, and we find special encouragement when we know they pray for us. Would you please pray for the many challenges that may come to us? Please pray



for the legal processes we are working on for our local registration, necessary for having a new church property. Please pray for our church committee and our online ministry that has brought so many blessings to us. And may the Lord of our freedom be with you.

~Pastor Israel Flores
Mission St. Paul FLC, Leon, Mexico

UPDATE FROM CELAYA CONGREGATION



Our generation had not experienced a worldwide pandemic so close to our lives and congregations as the one currently happening. In 1527, before the bubonic plague swept through Europe, Martin Luther wrote, "... the pastor has to encourage believers to be strengthened in Christ, knowing the promises of Romans 8: no plague or any power will be able to separate them from the love of their Savior. Rather, death will be God's will by which he will bring his children into his presence" (Romans 8:37-39). In response to the pastors who had written to him, Luther told them to "have peace of your well-being, and instead set your sights on Christ."

We're thankful for God's faithfulness to us at Gethsemane Church, Celaya, México. On Resurrection Sunday, God gathered us together, as every year, at 6 a.m., this time with little restrictions for health measures. The García Torres family was with us, three of whom were infected with Covid last January. Now they are healthy. Together we received a very blessed gospel message. We continue in prayer for those who have not yet rejoined us due to the risk of contagion, and also for Miss Granados (92), a pioneer of the work in Celaya. We are thankful for her faithful testimony. Of great help in our youth ministry and Sunday school programs are Milton Jr., Josué, and Andrés, all of whom attended the Free Lutheran Bible College. We thank God for that.

The Lord our God has also allowed us to finish the construction of one of the necessary walls of the property of our sanctuary. We experienced many blessings from our Lord throughout this effort.

~Pastor Milton S. Flores
Gethsemane, Celaya, Mexico